

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03376 192251Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 AID-05

IGA-02 PC-01 EB-07 COME-00 /073 W

-----120846 192257Z /72

O R 192155Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4944

INFO CINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 4355

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3376

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT: ROMERO COMMENTS TO PRESS ON TERRORISM, UGB THREAT

1. IN JULY 19 INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL AP STRINGER, PRESIDENT ROMERO CONDEMNED VIOLENCE "FROM WHEREVER IT COMES". ARTICLE (FULL TEXT BEING SENT AS USINFO) STATED THAT ROMERO'S REMARKS ON VIOLENCE WERE IN CONNECTION WITH UGB THREAT AGAINST JESUITS ALTHOUGH DIRECT QUOTE COMES IN CONTEXT OF COMMENT ON JULY 12 SLAYING OF 87-YEAR-OLD EX-PRESIDENT OSMIN AGUIRRE Y SALINAS, FOR WHICH FPL HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. ARTICLE ALSO STATED ROMERO CITED PASSAGE IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS: "MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEEK VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH ANYONE, BUT IT WILL EXERCISE VIGOROUSLY SOCIETY'S RIGHT OF LEGITIMATE DEFENSE TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND MAINTAIN PEACE AMONG ALL ITS MEMBERS."

2. JULY 19 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN SA 03376 192251Z

RELEASE: "BEFORE THE WAVE OF RUMORS AND CONJECTURES WHICH CERTAIN UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS HAVE SPREAD RELATING TO RECENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, THAT THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES HAVE FOLDED THEIR ARMS AND HAVE CEASED TO INVESTIGATE AND SEEK OUT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE HORRIBLE CRIMES, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS:

IN THE DESIRE TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THE CONSTITUTION IMPOSES ON IT TO GUARANTEE TO ALL THE CITIZENRY, WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR ECONOMIC CONDITION, THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS, THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES ARE CARRYING OUT INTENSE ACTIVITIES TO INVESTIGATE AND BRING BEFORE THE COURTS THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIMINAL ACTS WHICH HAVE SHOCKED AND SADDENED THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS TO REPRESS ENERGETICALLY VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM FROM WHEREVER THEY COME, FROM THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT OR ANY OTHER SECTOR WHATEVER IT MAY BE DESIGNATED.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY CALLS UPON ALL RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS TO UNITE RANKS TO ACHIEVE THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY WHICH OUR COUNTRY DESERVES.

THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY IS THE CONSTANT PREOCCUPATION OF THIS MINISTRY, FOR WHICH PURPOSE THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES ARE ADOPTING MEASURES TO ERADICATE CRIMINALITY, ROBBERY OR ANY OTHER VIOLATION AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE CITIZENRY. THUS, THE MINISTRY REITERATES THE NEED FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF ALL IN ACHIEVING THE ABOVE PURPOSES FOR THE GENERAL BENEFIT OF SOCIETY."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03376 192251Z

3. FURTHER QUOTES FROM ROMERO IN AP ARTICLE ARE AS FOLLOWS: "I DO NOT BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE. ON THE CONTRARY, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IS THROUGH DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE DIFFERENT SECTORS WHICH MAKE UP OUR SOCIETY. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE FOR A FEW DAYS, WE HAVE DIALOGUED WITH THE MAJORITY OF REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS. WE HAVE DONE THIS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WITH INDUSTRY AND, ABOVE ALL, WE HAVE MET IN A SPECIAL WAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCH TO WHOM MORE THAN ONCE I MADE CLEAR THAT THE IMAGE THAT IS PUT OUT CONCERNING MY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHURCH DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY." ROMERO ROMERO REPORTEDLY STATEDLY STATED THAT "I WILL DEMONSTRATE THIS TO THEM BY ACTIONS". ARTICLE REPORTS THAT ROMERO MET WITH CESAR JEREZ, CENTRAL AMERICAN JESUIT PROVINCIAL, AND CRISOBAL CORTEZ, ASSISTANT TO ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR. AS FURTHER GESTURE OF CHURCH, ROMERO REPORTEDLY PRESENTED 500,000 COLON CHECK FOR GOES SUBSIDY TO JESUIT-RUN SIMEON CANAS UNIVERSITY DURING THIS MEETING WITH JESUIT

LEADERS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, ROMERO VIGOROUSLY
DENIED THAT SECURITY FORCE OR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL
WERE INVOLVED IN UGB.

4. ROMERO'S INTERVIEW PLUS MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PRESS
RELEASE APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION
THAT GOES MAKE SOME PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT ON UGB THREAT
AGAINST JESUITS. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND THAT REFERENCE
HE MADE TO THESE STATEMENTS IN STATE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION
BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. COPIES OF BOTH WERE SENT TO ME
TODAY (JULY 19 BY VICE-PRESIDENT ASTACIO, WHO HAD EARLIER
(JULY 18) TOLD ME OF RELUCTANCE TO MAKE SUCH A PRONOUNCE-
MENT BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT STRONG GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
WOULD CONSTITUTE "DARE" TO UGB TERRORISTS AND MAKE IT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SAN SA 03376 192251Z

MORE LIKELY THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT THREATENED
ACTION. GOES ALSO FEARED FPL, GIVEN IDEA BY PUBLICITY,
MIGHT COMMIT SOME ACT AGAINST JESUITS MAKING IT APPEAR UGB
OR GOVERNMENT DID IT.

LUBENSKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS03376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770257-0020
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770742/aaaabkjo.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93609a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1817646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMERO COMMENTS TO PRESS ON TERRORISM, UGB THREAT
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93609a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009